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PATENT APPLICATION

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64434

Akihisa MURATA, et al.

Allowed: July 15, 2005

Appln. No.: 09/853,787

Group Art Unit: 1771

Confirmation No.: 7102

Examiner: Daniel R. Zirker

Filed: May 14, 2001

For: HEAT-PEELABLE PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

ATTN: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REMARKS

Applicant offers the following comments in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability dated July 15, 2005.

Even though the application includes 11 independent formulations of the invention, the Reasons for Allowance paraphrase only claim 8. Accordingly, while the Statement appears to be an accurate statement of reasons for allowing claim 8, the statement is deficient by failing to acknowledge that claims 2-7 and 9-12 were allowed for independent reasons.

Specifically, in the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner characterizes the present invention as requiring "a layer of heat expandable microspheres contained in a psa matrix, ... an antistatic layer, all coated onto a suitable substrate, in addition to the adhesive roughness requirement."

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's characterization of the present invention is inaccurate as to claims 2-7 and 9-12. In particular, independent claims 3 and 7 recite that the heat-expandable pressure-sensitive adhesive layer has a surface resistivity of $10^{12} \Omega/\square$ or lower. Claim 3 further recites that at least one selected from the group consisting of inorganic conductive materials, organic antistatic agents and organic conductive materials is contained in or applied to the heat-expandable pressure-sensitive adhesive layer. Claim 7 further recites that at least one selected from the group consisting of inorganic conductive materials, organic antistatic agents and organic conductive materials is applied to the substrate. However, none of the above recitations require an antistatic layer.

Further, the Examiner's statement should not be misinterpreted as meaning that the feature identified by the Examiner is the only patentable feature in any of the claims. The independent claims and the dependent claims also include various other aspects which provide a separate basis for patentability. The Examiner's statement paraphrases a portion of the subject matter of the claims, but each claim should be interpreted using its own precise language, and not the paraphrase and summary included in the Examiner's statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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